423 dealt with a considerably larger area. Forty-six holdings were between one and two, 18 between two and three, 8 between three and four, 3 between four and five, and 2 larger (8.8 and 19.5) hectares in extent. These holdings do not necessarily represent the whole of the land owned by a peasant.

Land Utilisation.

311 Broadly speaking, the land within the commune may be divided into three categories: the alluvium of the Bistricioara valley and the lower portions of its tributary valleys which is devoted to arable farming; the deforested lower slopes of the valley sides, together with the broad upper portions of some of the tributary valleys and odd patches of level ground here and there which are reserved for hay; and the rest, which is forest with the exception of the small high-altitude clearings that provide summer pasturage for the transhumant flocks and herds.

311 423 About 58 per cent of the land belongs to the state, 37 per cent to the commune, and the rest, comprising about 400 hectares, is owned by the peasants. These 400 hectares represent the arable land of the commune, whilst the state lands are entirely forest. The commune lands include a certain amount of forest, together with the hay meadows and summer pastures. The law tries to make peasants plant trees to replace those that they cut down.

Crops.

241 [262] In the arable area the outstanding crop is maize, from which "mamaliga," the staple food of the peasants, is made. It is sown at the beginning of May, two hillings, separated by an interval of three or four weeks, are made during June, and the crop is harvested between September 25th and October 10th. Potatoes, hemp, flax, lucerne (of which three cuttings are usually made), a little rye, sunflowers and vegetables are grown, mostly in very small patches, giving the impression of garden, rather than field, cultivation. Occasionally a small orchard adds further variety to the general pattern.

246 The hay crop is of vital importance, as in all mountain communities of this kind throughout Europe. It is harvested

4:Fleure S-5 (no date)1936 ED1 Rumania ED1

241

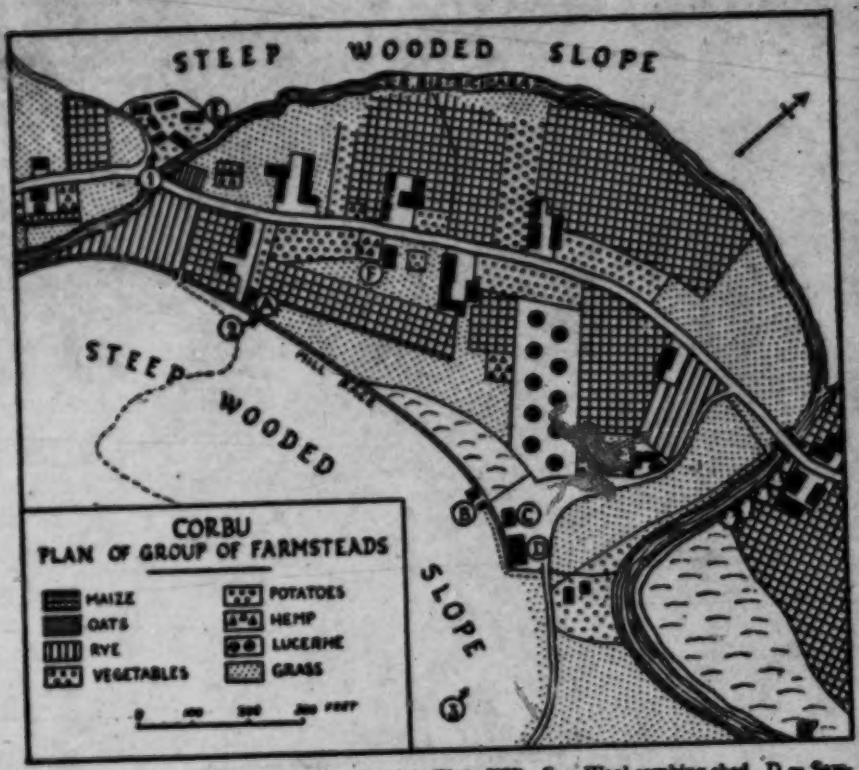

FIGURE 11. A = Joinery mill. B = Smithy (Plate XII). C = Wool-combing shed. D = Saw-mill. E = Gipsy colony. F = Holding in process of subdivision. Numbers refer to position and direction of camera: (1) Plate XII (lower), (2) Plate XI (lower), (3) Plate XI (upper).

●246

in the Bistricioara valley in the early part of July, the peasants then working up the hillsides to the higher meadows where the hay-making is completed about the third week in September. What is not needed in the village byres is stacked on the lower slopes near the sheep pens in which the animals are housed during the winter months.

321

TRANSHUMANCE.

TRANSHUMANCE forms an essential supplement to arable farming in Corbu, for the cultivable land is too valuable to be used for grazing purposes except for a short time after the harvest, whilst the produce of the hay meadows is required for winter feed.

132 being common at this height (440 metres and upwards). July and August are the hottest months.

THE MEAN annual rainfall for Curtea de Argeş (taken over a period of nine years) is 672 mm. Precipitation occurs all the year round, but the rainiest months are May and June.

243 THE PRINCIPAL crop is maize, from which not only is the staple food "mamaliga" made, but the stems and leaves are used for animal fodder and bedding. Oats and rye are grown for fodder on the larger farms only. Wheat is not grown in the region. Soil and climate are suitable, but at present the peasant possesses very little machinery; harvesting would have to be done with a sickle or scythe and threshing with a flail. It is easier to buy such wheat as is required from the Wallachian Plain.

244 IN ADDITION to the above, every farm, however small, grows various vegetable crops: pumpkins for fodder, tomatoes, paprika, potatoes, onions, runner beans, cabbages, aubergines, often amongst the maize, sometimes as ground crops in the orchards.

246 CULTIVATED FODDER crops are grown only on the larger farms, and consist of clover, lucerne and sometimes a mixture of vetch and oats, and very occasionally turnips.

THE LOWER slopes of the hills form the natural hay meadows of the commune, but occasionally the grass of the orchard is used as rough pasture.

248 HEMP IS grown on the low-lying farms, usually as a boundary crop for the maize. Flax is also grown, but very few sunflowers.

245 AN IMPORTANT aspect of agriculture around Curtea de Argeş is fruit cultivation. Apples, pears and plums are the main crops, with occasional cherries. Every farm, however small, has some fruit trees, sometimes scattered over the whole holding, but more usually in a small orchard. Sufficient apples are grown to allow a considerable export trade to Bucharest. Plums are used for the manufacture of the alcoholic drink tuica in Curtea de Argeş. Recently plum-drying has been tried, and is already being taken up successfully by the more enterprising peasants. Walnuts also are gathered and sold.